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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION

DEAN SHEIKH, et al.,

Plaintiffs

v.

TESLA, INC. d/b/a TESLA MOTORS, INC.,

Defendant.

Case No. 5:17-cv-02193-BLF

PRELIMINARY APPROVAL
ORDER

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1 warrant notice of the settlement and the Final Approval Hearing to the Settlement Class; (c) meets
2 all applicable requirements of law, including Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 and the Class
3 Action Fairness Act; and (d) is not a finding or admission of liability by Tesla.

4 **Certification of Settlement Class**

5 4. Under Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and for purposes of
6 settlement only, the Court preliminarily approves the following Settlement Class:

7 All U.S. residents who purchased Enhanced Autopilot in connection
8 with their purchase or lease of a Tesla Hardware 2 Model S or Model
X vehicle delivered to them on or before September 30, 2017.

9 5. All persons who are members of the Settlement Class who have not submitted a
10 timely request for exclusion are referred to collectively as “Settlement Class Members” or
11 individually as a “Settlement Class Member.”

12 6. For purposes of settlement only, the Court finds that the prerequisites for a class
13 action under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(a) and (b)(3) have been met, including that the
14 Settlement Class is sufficiently numerous, that there are questions of law and fact common to
15 members of the Settlement Class that predominate, that the claims of Plaintiffs are typical of the
16 claims of the Settlement Class, that Plaintiffs and their counsel adequately represent the interests
17 of the Settlement Class, and that a settlement class action is a superior method of adjudicating this
18 Action.

19 7. Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, and for settlement purposes only,
20 Plaintiffs Dean Sheikh, John Kelner, Tom Milone, Daury Lamarche and Michael Verdolin are
21 hereby appointed Class Representatives and the following are hereby appointed as Class Counsel:

22 Steve W. Berman
23 Thomas E. Loeser
24 Robert F. Lopez
25 HAGENS BERMAN SOBOL SHAPIRO LLP
1918 Eighth Avenue, Suite 3300
Seattle, WA 98101

26 **Notice and Administration**

27 8. The Court hereby approves of KCC LLC to perform the functions and duties of the
28 Settlement Administrator set forth in the Settlement Agreement—including providing notice to

1 the Settlement Class and administering distributions from the Settlement Fund—and to provide
2 such other administration services as are reasonably necessary to facilitate the completion of the
3 Settlement.

4 9. The Court has carefully considered the forms and methods of notice to the
5 Settlement Class set forth in the Settlement Agreement (“Notice Plan”). The Court finds that the
6 Notice Plan constitutes the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and satisfies fully the
7 requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the requirements of due process,
8 and the requirements of any other applicable law, such that the terms of the Settlement
9 Agreement, the releases provided for therein, and this Court’s final judgment will be binding on
10 all Settlement Class Members.

11 10. The Court hereby approves the Notice Plan and the form, content, and
12 requirements of the Class Notice attached as Exhibit A, hereto, and the Summary Notice attached
13 as Exhibit B, hereto. The Settlement Administrator shall cause the Notice Plan to be executed on
14 or before **July 23, 2018**. Class Counsel, prior to the Final Approval Hearing, shall file with the
15 Court a declaration executed by the Settlement Administrator attesting to the timely completion
16 of the Notice Plan.

17 11. All costs of providing notice to the Settlement Class, notice to appropriate federal
18 and state officials as required by the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, and administering
19 distributions from the Settlement Fund shall be separately paid by Tesla, as provided by the
20 Settlement Agreement.

21 **Exclusion and “Opt-Outs”**

22 12. Each and every member of the Settlement Class shall be bound by all
23 determinations and orders pertaining to the Settlement, including the release of all claims to the
24 extent set forth in the Settlement Agreement, unless such persons request exclusion from the
25 Settlement in a timely and proper manner, as hereinafter provided.

26 13. A Settlement Class Member wishing to request exclusion (or “opt-out”) from the
27 Settlement shall mail the request in written form and postmarked no later than **September 6,**
28 **2018**, to the Settlement Administrator at the address specified in the Class Notice. In the written

1 request for exclusion, the Settlement Class Member must state his or her desire to be excluded
2 from the Settlement Class, as well as the Settlement Class Member's name, address, and
3 signature. The request for exclusion shall not be effective unless the request for exclusion
4 provides the required information and is made within the time stated above. No member of the
5 Settlement Class, or any person acting on behalf of or in concert or in participation with a
6 member of the Settlement Class, may request exclusion of any other member of the Settlement
7 Class from the Settlement.

8 14. Members of the Settlement Class who timely request exclusion from the
9 Settlement will relinquish their rights to benefits under the Settlement and will not release any
10 claims against Tesla.

11 15. All Settlement Class Members who do not timely and validly request exclusion
12 shall be so bound by all terms of the Settlement Agreement and by the Final Approval Order and
13 Judgment even if they have previously initiated or subsequently initiate individual litigation or
14 any other proceedings against Tesla.

15 16. The Settlement Administrator will provide promptly, and no later than five (5)
16 business days following the deadline for Settlement Class Members to opt-out, all Parties with
17 copies of any exclusion requests, and Plaintiffs shall file a list of all persons who have validly
18 opted out of the Settlement with the Court prior to the Final Approval Hearing.

19 **Objections**

20 17. Any Settlement Class Member who does not file a timely request for exclusion,
21 but who wishes to object to approval of the proposed Settlement, to the award of attorneys' fees
22 and costs, or to the service awards to the Class Representatives must mail to the Class Action
23 Clerk or file with the Court a written statement that includes: a caption or title that identifies it as
24 "Objection to Class Settlement in *Sheikh, et al. v. Tesla, Inc.*, Case No. 5:17-CV-02193-BLF;" the
25 Settlement Class Member's name, address, and telephone number; all grounds for the objection,
26 with any factual and legal support for each stated ground; the identity of any witnesses he or she
27 may call to testify; copies of any exhibits that he or she intends to introduce into evidence at the
28 Final Approval Hearing; and a statement of whether the Settlement Class Member intends to

1 appear at the Final Approval Hearing with or without counsel. The Court will consider objections
2 to the Settlement, to the award of attorneys' fees and costs, or to the service awards to the Class
3 Representatives only if such objections and any supporting papers are postmarked or filed on or
4 before **September 6, 2018**.

5 18. A Settlement Class Member who has timely filed a written objection stating the
6 Class Member's intention to appear at the Final Approval Hearing as set forth above may appear
7 at the Final Approval Hearing in person or through counsel to be heard orally regarding his or her
8 objection. It is not necessary, however, for a Settlement Class Member who has filed a timely
9 objection to appear at the Final Approval Hearing. No Settlement Class Member wishing to be
10 heard orally in opposition to the approval of the Settlement and/or the request for attorneys' fees
11 and costs and/or the request for service awards to the Class Representatives will be heard unless
12 that Settlement Class Member has filed a timely written objection as set forth above, including a
13 statement that the Settlement Class Member intends to appear at the Final Approval Hearing. No
14 non-party, including members of the Settlement Class who have timely opted out of the
15 Settlement, will be heard at the Final Approval Hearing.

16 19. Any member of the Settlement Class who does not make an objection to the
17 Settlement in the manner provided herein shall be deemed to have waived and forfeited any and
18 all rights he or she may have to object, appear, present witness testimony, and/or submit
19 evidence; shall be barred from appearing, speaking, or introducing any testimony or evidence at
20 the Final Approval Hearing; shall be precluded from seeking review of the Settlement Agreement
21 by appeal or other means; and shall be bound by all terms of the Settlement Agreement and by all
22 proceedings, orders, and judgments in the Action.

23 **Final Approval Hearing**

24 20. The Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(e) Final Approval Hearing is hereby
25 scheduled to be held before the Court at **9:00 AM on October 17, 2018**, at the San Jose
26 Courthouse, Courtroom 3, 5th Floor, 280 S. 1st Street, San Jose, CA 95131, for the following
27 purposes:
28

1 (a) to finally determine whether the applicable prerequisites for settlement
2 class action treatment under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(a) and (b) are met;

3 (b) to determine whether the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and
4 should be given final approval by the Court;

5 (c) to determine whether the judgment as provided under the Settlement
6 Agreement should be entered;

7 (d) to consider the application for an award of attorneys' fees and expenses of
8 Class Counsel;

9 (e) to consider the application for service awards to the Class Representatives;

10 (f) to consider the distribution of the Settlement benefits under the terms of the
11 Settlement Agreement; and

12 (g) to rule upon such other matters as the Court may deem appropriate.

13 21. On or before fourteen (14) days in advance of **September 6, 2018**, Class Counsel
14 shall file any application for attorneys' fees and expenses and service awards to the Class
15 Representatives. Papers in support of final approval of the settlement shall be filed no later than
16 **October 5, 2018**. Either Party may, but need not, file a response to any objection no later than
17 ten (10) days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. The Final Approval Hearing may be
18 postponed, adjourned, transferred, or continued by order of the Court without further notice to the
19 Settlement Class. At, or following, the Final Approval Hearing, the Court may enter a Final
20 Approval Order and Judgment in accordance with the Settlement Agreement that will adjudicate
21 the rights of all class members.

22 22. For clarity, the deadlines the Parties shall adhere to are as follows:

23 **Class Notice Mailed by:** **July 23, 2018**

24 **Objection/Exclusion Deadline:** **September 6, 2018**

25 **Final Approval Hearing:** **October 17, 2018 at 9:00 AM**

26
27 23. Settlement Class Members do not need to appear at the Final Approval Hearing or
28 take any other action to indicate their approval.

Further Matters

24. All discovery and other pretrial proceedings in the Action as between the Plaintiffs and Tesla are stayed and suspended until further order of the Court except such actions as may be necessary to implement the Settlement Agreement and this Order.

25. In order to protect its jurisdiction to consider the fairness of this Settlement Agreement and to enter a Final Approval Order and Judgment having binding effect on all Settlement Class Members, the Court hereby enjoins all Settlement Class Members, and anyone who acts or purports to act on their behalf, from pursuing or continuing to pursue all other proceedings in any state or federal court or any other proceeding that seeks to address Releasing Parties' or any Settlement Class Member's rights or claims relating to, or arising out of, any of the Released Claims.


26. Neither the Settlement nor the Settlement Agreement constitutes an admission, concession, or indication by the Parties of the validity of any claims or defenses in the Action or of any liability, fault, or wrongdoing of any kind by Tesla, which vigorously denies all of the claims and allegations raised in the Action.

27. In the event that the Settlement Agreement is terminated under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, or if for any reason whatsoever the approval of it does not become final and no longer subject to appeal, then: (i) the Settlement Agreement shall be null and void, including any provisions related to the award of attorneys' fees and costs, shall have no further force and effect with respect to any party in this Action, and may not be referred to or used as evidence or for any other purpose whatsoever in the Action or any other action or proceeding; (ii) all negotiations, proceedings, documents prepared, and statements made in connection therewith shall be without prejudice to any person or party hereto, shall not be deemed or construed to be an admission by any party of any act, matter, or proposition, and shall not be used in any manner of

1 or for any purpose in any subsequent proceeding in this Action or in any other action in any court
2 or other proceeding, provided, however, that the termination of the Settlement Agreement shall
3 not shield from subsequent discovery any factual information provided in connection with the
4 negotiation of this Settlement Agreement that would ordinarily be discoverable but for the
5 attempted settlement; (iii) this Order shall be vacated and of no further force or effect whatsoever,
6 as if it had never been entered; and (iv) any party may elect to move the Court to implement the
7 provisions of this paragraph, and none of the non-moving parties (or their counsel) shall oppose
8 any such motion. This Order shall not be construed or used to show that certification of one or
9 more classes would or would not be appropriate if the Action were to be litigated rather than
10 settled.
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12 28. The Court retains jurisdiction to consider all further matters arising out of or
13 connected with the Settlement.
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15 DATED: June 8, 2018


Honorable Beth Labson Freeman
United States District Judge